

Message Text

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12
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 AF-10 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS STATE 233586

SUBJ: IRISH CONCERN ABOUT PHOSPHATE ROCK PRICE INCREASE

REF: DUBLIN 1497

1. IRISH REPORT ON PHOSPHATE ROCK PRICE INCREASE IS CORRECT.
US CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER TRADE PRESS ALSO HAVE REPORTED
MOROCCAN INCREASE.

2. US PRICE (PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORT CORPORATION) HAS INCREASED
ABOUT 80 PERCENT WITH REMOVAL FROM PRICE CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC
BUSINESS FOR FERTILIZERS AND FERTILIZER MATERIALS (COST OF
LIVING COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT, OCT. 25). TH US AND WORLD HAS
SHORT-TIGHT SUPPLY. PHOSROCK CORP. ALSO REPORTED THAT THEY
WOULD REDUCE EXPORTS NEXT YEAR IN ORDER HELP MEET DOMESTIC
NEEDS.

3. THE OFFICE CHERIFEN DES PHOSPHATES, MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT
AGENCY, WHICH CONTROLS PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS, APPEARS TO
HAVE ATTITUDE OF TAKING WHAT MARKET WILL BEAR, AND MAY OVER
ONG PERIOD DRIVE GOOD CUSTOMERS AWAY BY THEIR HIGH PRICE.
IT CERTAINLY PAYS CONSUMERS WORLD OVER NOT TO PUT ALL THEIR
EGGS IN ONE BASKET.

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4. OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PHOSPHATE ROCK RESERVES WHICH
ARE BEING EXPANDED ARE TOGO, SENEGAL, USSR AND SPANISH
MOROCCO.

5. US SUPPLY INCREASES FOR NEXT SEVERAL YEARS DO NOT LOOK
PROMISING. MUCH OF OUR IMMEDIATE FUTURE COMMITMENTS ARE FOR
EXPORT OF MANUFACTURED FERTILIZERS AND MATERIALS. ANY
ADDITIONAL OR EARLY INCREASE IN ROCK OUTPUT FOR EXPORT ARE
NOTE EXPECTED BECAUSE OF ENERGY-POWER SHORTAGES AND TRANS-
PORT DIFFICULTIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS.
KISSINGER

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